

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A fibrous composition, said fibrous
2 composition comprising:
3 a fiber; and
4 a peroxycarboxylic acid functional group covalently attached to said fiber wherein
5 said peroxycarboxylic acid functional group is derived from an organic acid having at least
6 two carboxyl groups.
- 1 2. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 1, wherein said
2 fiber is a member selected from the group consisting of a natural material and a material
3 derived from natural material.
- 1 3. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 2, wherein said
2 natural material comprises a member selected from the group consisting of cellulose, starch,
3 chitosan, chitin, wool, and silk.
- 1 4. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 3, wherein said
2 cellulose is a member selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, tencel, flax, hemp,
3 and blends of the fibers with polyester and nylon.
- 1 5. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 1, wherein said
2 fiber comprises polyvinyl alcohol.
- 1 6. (Cancelled)
- 1 7. (Cancelled)
- 1 8. (Currently Amended) The fibrous composition according to claim 1
2 [[6]], wherein said organic acid is a member selected from the group consisting of a
3 tetracarboxylic acid, a tricarboxylic acid and a dicarboxylic acid.

1 9. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 1, wherein said
2 fiber has a plurality of peroxycarboxylic acid functional groups.

1 10. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 1, wherein said
2 organic acid is a member selected from the group consisting of butane tetraacetic acid, citric
3 acid and maleic acid.

1 11. (Original) The fibrous composition according to claim 10, wherein
2 said fiber has at least two free carboxylic acid functions.

1 12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial fiber,
2 said process comprising:

3 (a) immersing a fiber in an aqueous treating solution comprising an
4 organic acid, wherein said organic acid has at least two carboxyl groups; and

5 (b) treating said fiber with an oxidizing agent to produce a
6 peroxycarboxylic acid function, thereby preparing an antimicrobial fiber.

1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Original) The process according to claim 13, wherein said treating
2 solution further comprises a catalyst.

1 16. (Original) The process according to claim 15, wherein said catalyst is
2 selected from the group consisting of an acid catalyst and a basic catalyst.

1 17. (Original) The process according to claim 15, wherein said acid
2 catalyst is a member selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, methanesulfonic
3 acid and sulfonic acid.

1 18. (Original) The process according to claim 15, wherein said catalyst is
2 an ion-exchange resin.

1 19. (Original) The process according to claim 15, wherein said catalyst is
2 a member selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

1 20. (Original) The process according to claim 13, wherein said organic
2 acid is a member selected from the group consisting of butane tetraacetic acid and citric acid.

1 21. (Original) The process according to claim 13, further comprising:
2 removing the excess treating solution from said fiber prior to treating said
3 fiber with an oxidizing agent.

1 22. (Original) The process according to claim 13, wherein said oxidizing
2 agent is an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide.

1 23. (Original) The process according to claim 22, wherein said hydrogen
2 peroxide is about 0.5% to about 30% by weight.

1 24. (Original) The process according to claim 13, wherein said oxidizing
2 agent is an oxygen bleach.

1 25. (Original) The process according to claim 24, wherein said oxygen
2 bleach is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide and sodium
3 perborate.

1 26. (Original) The process according to claim 13, wherein said fiber is an
2 article.

1 27. (Original) The process according to claim 26, wherein said article is a
2 member selected from the group consisting of a surgeon's gown, a cap, a mask, a surgical
3 cover, a patient drape, a carpeting, a bedding material, an underwear, a sock, a bandage, a
4 pad, a sheet, and a uniform.

1 28. (Original) The process according to claim 13, wherein said fiber is
2 cellulosic material.

1 **29.** (Original) The process according to claim **28**, wherein said cellulosic
2 material is a member selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, tencel, flax, hemp,
3 and blends of the fibers with polyester or nylon.

1 **30.** (Original) The process according to claim **13**, wherein said fiber is
2 selected from the group consisting of chitosan and chitin material.

1 **31.** (Original) The process according to claim **13**, wherein said
2 antimicrobial activity is regenerable.